

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029469
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-12 ISO-00 ACDA-12 L-03 MCE-00
SS-15 DODE-00 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /067 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS: RWSMITH:LD
APPROVED BY PM/SAS: MR. CORRY
AF/I - COL. CARROLL
EA/K - MR. BLAKEMORE
-----043551 040828Z /13

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

UNCLAS STATE 029469

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, KS, CG

SUBJECT: POTENTIAL ROK SALE OF 81 MM MORTARS

REF: A) SEOUL 8321
B) STATE 008854
C) KINSHASA 0599

1. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST CONTAINED REF C, PERTINENT
PORTIONS OF SEOUL 8321 ARE REPEATED BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION. NO OTHER MESSAGES PERTAIN.

2.QTE:ROKG HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED USG APPROVAL OF THE SALE
OF 280 81 MM MORTARS TO MALAYSIA AND 11 TO ZAIRE. DAEWOO
HEAVY INDUSTRY CO, FORMERLY HANKOOK MACHINE CO, THE
DESIGNATED ROK MANUFACTURER OF THE 81 MM MORTAR, DESIRES
TO OFFER TO SELL 81 MM MORTARS TO MALAYSIA AND ZAIRE IN
RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES BY GOVTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES.
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3. THE ROK HAS BEEN MANUFACTURING 81 MM MORTARS FOR
INDIGENOUS USE SINCE 1973 WITH USG APPROVAL. IN JULY 1975
ROK WAS AUTHORIZED BY USG TO SELL THREE 81 MM MORTARS TO
GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON. IN JAN 1977 ROK WAS AUTHORIZED BY
USG TO SELL 170 81 MM MORTARS TO GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND.

IN BOTH CASES AN 8 PERCENT ROYALTY CHARGE (BASED ON THE CURRENT FMS PRICE) WAS ASSESSED BY USG ON THE TRANSACTION.

4. AS IN PREVIOUS CASES, RECOGNIZE THAT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 406 (A) (2), TITLE IV, OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND EXPORT ACT, AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING OTHER COUNTRIES MENTIONED, ABOUT WHICH WE ARE NOT FULLY INFORMED, MAY AFFECT DECISION ON ANY OR ALL OF PROPOSED SALES. ROKG RECOGNIZES THAT FINAL USG APPROVAL REQUIRES CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION. WE FEEL FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS FAVOR APPROVAL OF THIS REQUEST: A) THE PROPOSED SALES WOULD TOTAL ABOUT \$1.6 MILLION AND WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO DEVELOPMENT OF ROK DEFENSE INDUSTRY IN NON-SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS PRODUCTION. B) INCREASED QUANTITY PRODUCTION WOULD REDUCE UNIT COST OF ITEMS FOR ROK USE. C) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THESE TRANSACTIONS SHOULD HELP ROK RELATIONS WITH THE PROSPECTIVE BUYERS WHOSE SUPPORT ROK COULD WELL USE IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

5. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS WE RECOMMEND REQUEST BE GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO EXTENT POSSIBLE. REQUEST EARLIEST POSSIBLE INTERIM REPLY, MOREOVER, TO ENABLE US TO KEEP ROKG INFORMED OF PROSPECTS. UNQTE. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED
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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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